## Message Text

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**ACTION EUR-25** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 CEQ-02

COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06

FEA-02 DRC-01 /179 W

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R 262244Z FEB 74 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2797

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0542

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: GREAT LAKES QUALITY AGREEMENT

1. WINDSOR STAR RECENTLY PUBLISHED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ON U.S. PERFORMANCE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT

"DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM WASHINGTON, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE U.S. IS NOT GOING TO FULFILL ITS TREATY COMMITMENT TO CLEAN UP THE GREAT LAKES BY 1976.

"CANADA, WHICH IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS AND WILL MEET ITS COMMITMENT, CAN PROPERLY RESENT THE AMERICAN SLOWNESS TO ACT ON THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT SIGNED BY PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU AND PRESIDENT NIXON TWO YEARS AGO. ALONG WITH THE RESENTMENT, THIS COUNTRY SHOULD KEEP PUSHING TO KEEP ITS WORD, NO MATTER WHAT THE U.S. DOES.

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"THE DELAYS IN THE U.S. PROGRAM OF BUILDING

SEWAGE TREATMENT AND PHOSPHATE REMOVAL PLANTS ARE BLAMED IN THE U.S. ON TWO FACTORS: THE IMPOUNDING BY PRESIDENT NIXON OF FUNDS EARMARKED FOR POLLUTION CONTROL BY CONGRESS, AND THE BUREAUCRATIC CONFUSION IN WASHINGTON OVER HOW AVAILABLE FUNDS ARE TO BE SPENT. THE TOTAL EFFECT IS THAT ONLY \$500 MILLION OF THE \$2 BILLION REQUIRED FOR THE U.S. SHARE OF THE CLEANUP HAS BEEN SPENT. EVEN IF THE REST OF THE MONEY WERE MADE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, THE LONG LEAD TIME REQUIRED FOR ANTI-POLLUTION WORK MAKES THE 1976 TARGET DATE UNREALISTIC.

"WASHINGTON STILL FEELS THAT THE TARGET CAN BE MET,
BUT THIS APPEARS LESS AND LESS LIKELY. MANY ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAMS IN THE U.S. ARE TAKING SECOND PLACE TO THE ENERGY
CRISIS AND THE NATIONAL PREOCCUPATION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON'S
TROUBLES, AND THERE IS NO REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE QUALITY
OF WATER IN THE GREAT LAKES WILL BE THE EXCEPTION.

"WHAT CANADA WOULD WELCOME NOW IS SOME SIGN THAT THE U.S. IS WORRYING ABOUT FULFILLING ITS TREATY OBLIGATION RATHER THAN TALKING ABOUT IT. IT IS NOT THAT VITAL THAT THE U.S. MEET THE TARGET DATE -- TARGETS ARE CASUAL THINGS IN MOST CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, LARGE OR SMALL. BUT SOME INDICATION IN WASHINGTON THAT THE AGREEMENT IS MORE THAN A SUBJECT FOR POLITICAL SQUABBLING WOULD REASSURE CANADIANS." END TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

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